

Huerta has been "crumbling" and "tottering" for a great many months. So confident is the administration that even the skeptics are inclined to believe that at last he really is.

The retirement of Huerta will simplify matters greatly. It will mean the necessity of a readjustment and a rearrangement, but the greatest obstacle of all to a reasonably speedy adjustment will have been removed. If Huerta goes it will be necessary to select some one in his place. It is probable that the A. B. C. mediators will offer their good offices for this purpose. It is said here to-night that Felix Diaz, nephew of Porfirio Diaz and leader of the revolt which resulted in the overthrow and death of Madero, is being groomed for the place of Provisional President of Mexico.

An unexplained truce has been arranged between the Federalists and rebels at Tampico, according to a dispatch from Rear Admiral Badger, who learned this from Rear Admiral Mayo, at Tampico. Why hostilities should suddenly have ceased at the most important point of contact of the two warring factions is something Washington does not yet know.

No Armistice Existing.

General Carranza, leader of the Constitutionalists, has not entered into the armistice which the mediators proposed and to which Huerta subscribed. While the mediators decline to discuss the refusal of Carranza to agree to an armistice or to suspend hostilities, it is evident that they are not greatly surprised nor discouraged. An armistice between Huerta and the United States they regarded as almost essential to the success of their efforts, but such a suspension of hostilities between Carranza and Huerta, while highly desirable, is more a humane than a diplomatic desideratum.

Continued hostilities between the United States and Mexico were likely at any moment to be productive of an outburst of resentment which would nullify every effort to avert war.

The truce which has been reached at Tampico is regarded as highly important. It probably will result in saving the vast foreign oil interests located there. In the light of Carranza's refusal to enter into a general armistice it is assumed that the military experts at Vera Cruz were right in their views that the Constitutionalists had little prospect of taking Tampico because of the presence of the Federal gunboats. It is suggested, also, that possibly Carranza realized that continued fighting at Tampico would probably result in the destruction of the vast oil property, and that in view of his military successes elsewhere he did not wish to run the risk of destroying what may prove a valuable asset once he acquires control in Mexico. It is thought, too, that he does not care by such destruction to augment the already immense foreign claim, which, if he should become President, he would have to meet.

The mediators have not been deterred in their work by reports of the probable withdrawal of Huerta. Instead they are going forward with their plans for the proposed peace conference. When and where this conference will be held has not been fully determined. It is stated on good authority, however, that the meeting probably will not be in Washington, but in Canada. Secretary Bryan will not represent the United States, according to the best information at hand, and neither will John Lind. It is learned to-day that, in addition to that of Richard Olney, the President has before him the names of John Bassett Moore and Henry White.

Will Send Peace Envoy.

While Carranza will not enter into the armistice he will send a delegate to the proposed peace conference. This the mediators ascertained before they announced that he had been invited to send a delegate. They also sounded Huerta, and found that he, too, would be willing to send some one to present his views if he were formally asked. Having learned in advance that they risked no rebuff, the call was issued.

It is believed here that before Huerta leaves Mexico City to its fate he will make a new appointment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since the abrupt retirement of Lopez Portillo the place has been occupied by sub-Secretary Esteve Ruiz, but his appointment, according to the notification which has been sent here, is only temporary.

Under the Mexican Constitution the Minister of Foreign Affairs succeeds to the Provisional Presidency if the offices of President and Vice-President are vacated. There is no Vice-President now, and when Huerta quits the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will become President. It was in this manner that Huerta succeeded to his present office.

Huerta Seeks Strong Man.

Huerta is expected to appoint some strong man to the place. This man would not, of course, be recognized by the administration here. President Wilson will continue to insist upon a constitutional election. It is considered certain, however, that Huerta's successor will be only a temporary appointment, and that whoever takes the job will at once reach an understanding with the Constitutionalists.

Officials of the administration make no effort to conceal their pleasure over the prospect of the early elimination of Huerta. In fact, the outlook seems to be just what the State Department has been working for—the elimination of Huerta and in his place the Constitutionalists.

The administration is worried over conditions at Vera Cruz. The skirmish between Mexican soldiers and the Americans guarding the waterworks yesterday, and General Funston's report that there are about 10,000 Federal soldiers only ten miles inland from Vera Cruz have caused anxiety.

It is realized that should Huerta break the armistice, or should he lose control and his troops do so, they could probably destroy the waterworks and thus leave 25,000 or 30,000 persons in Vera Cruz without water.

The naval forces could be supplied with distilled water from their ships, but the capacity of the stills would not be sufficient to take care of even a small part of the troops on shore, to say nothing of the non-combatants.

and the expedition with which additional forces could be landed at that point constituted the chief topic at the conference between the Secretary of War and his military aids and with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy this evening.

One cause for anxiety is that the waterworks and most of the pipes lines leading from them to the city are beyond the range of the guns of the battleships, so that General Funston must depend entirely on his own resources.

Vera Cruz, May 3.—Persistent reports continue to circulate here that General Huerta intends to retire from the Provisional Presidency of Mexico on condition that he be assured a safe conduct to a port and placed on board a foreign warship.

It is asserted in some Mexican circles in this city that General Huerta was ready to resign a week ago, but was prevented from doing so by internal dissensions in his Cabinet. The disappearance from the Mexican Cabinet of José Lopez Portillo y Rojas, the Foreign Minister, coupled with reports that there is a growing undercurrent of feeling in Mexico City against the Huerta government, is interpreted here as foreshadowing a change in the situation in the Federal capital.

Some of the close observers here of the government situation incline to the view that Señor Portillo's resignation may clear the way eventually for the appointment of a Foreign Minister who, under the Mexican constitution, could succeed General Huerta as President. In these circles it is pointed out that while Venustiano Carranza declined to treat with General Huerta he might consent to enter into negotiations with his successor and thus facilitate mediation.

The effect of the continued rebel successes in the north and the outcome of the pending attack on Tampico may, according to well informed opinion, bring about a rapid change in Mexico City.

While the federal capital was reported quiet to-day persons who arrived here from the seat of government said that the people there were beginning to learn that General Huerta had been deceiving them all the time by issuing false reports of Federal successes over the Constitutionalists.

The news of the peaceful way in which the Americans are occupying Vera Cruz, it is said, has spread to the capital and has convinced Mexicans there that the American invasion of the port is not for conquest or aggression. Refugees say the inhabitants of the capital fear the coming there of Francisco Villa more than that of the American troops.

The elements in Mexico City, which cling to the memory of the late President Francisco I. Madero are reported to be incensed by the arrest of some of the Deputies who were cast into jail once before on charges of conspiracy.

AMERICANS WARNED TO QUIT MEXICO CITY

Huerta, on Request of Brazilian Minister, Is to Provide Train for Them To-day.

Mexico City, May 3.—Another warning was received to-day by the Brazilian Minister from Consul Canada, at Vera Cruz, who advised the remaining Americans in the Federal capital to leave without delay. The Brazilian Minister said:

"I met General Huerta casually this morning and received from him repeated assurances that both he personally and his ministers would do everything that I asked to secure the safety and complete protection and comfort of the Americans remaining in this country."

"When I referred to the request I had made this morning to the Department of Foreign Relations for a special train for Americans desiring to leave the Federal capital, General Huerta at once gave orders for the necessary arrangements to be made, and the train will leave this city for Coahuila at 5 o'clock to-morrow evening."

"General Huerta assured me in particular that the train would carry the requisite number of sleeping cars for the women and children of the party, and would run under the protection of the Brazilian flag and with an adequate military escort to guard the passengers. The Brazilian Consul and Vice-Consul will accompany the train on behalf of the Brazilian Legation."

Rumors as to the ill health of Huerta were apparently unfounded, as he took his usual walk through Chapultepec Park this morning and later appeared in a prominent restaurant. Whenever he was recognized he was cheered.

Business interests are suffering from lack of mail facilities, and in consequence of this the Brazilian and Spanish ministers have arranged with the War Department for an emergency service.

It is said that two or more Mexican delegates are to be appointed to represent the Federal government at the mediation conference and that their names will be announced shortly. The general feeling here in regard to the conference is pessimistic.

CARRANZA REFUSES TO QUIT FIGHTING

Continued from page 1

establish as soon as possible the constitutional order which will produce peace.

"By virtue of the above, I state to you that I cannot accept the armistice which you propose. Consider my act solely as one who is acting with the determination of doing what I consider best for the best interests of my native country."

Huerta Orders Casasus Here.

Mexico City, May 3.—Joaquin D. Casasus, former Mexican Ambassador to the United States, was hurriedly ordered to-day to proceed to Washington from Carlsbad, where he has been taking the cure. The nature of his mission was not made public.

Burleson Seeks Summer Home.

Westerly, R. I., May 3.—Postmaster General Burleson probably will be a resident of Watch Hill next summer. He and Mrs. Burleson inspected a house here to-day. No final decision was reached, but he intimated that they expected to join the summer colony.

HUERTA TIGHTENS VERA CRUZ CORDON

Milk, Fruit and Vegetables Barred from City by Soldiers.

AMERICANS ORDERED TO AVOID A CLASH

Outposts at Water Works Have Been Increased, However, and Machine Guns Added.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Vera Cruz, May 3.—The cruiser Montana sailed this afternoon for New York with the bodies of the seventeen Americans killed during the action here or who died later. As the Montana passed through the fleet bluejackets and marines stood at quarters, flags were flown at half-staff and the bands played funeral dirges.

The second Sunday of American occupation found conditions in Vera Cruz nearly normal. The most apparent difference was due to lack of milk, fruit and vegetables, due to the Federal cordon about the city.

The ordinary Vera Cruz citizen seems to take American rule as a matter of course. As an example of what might possibly result in other cities in Mexico after the feeling of hostility has subsided, a resident said to-day that for the first time in the last six months citizens of Vera Cruz were safe from arrest.

Moving picture and vaudeville shows resumed last night and there was a modified bullfight to-day without horses.

Consul Canada states that the report that Germans landed marines at Acapulco and took off American refugees was unauthorized.

Strict orders were issued to-day from headquarters for the American soldiers and marines in Vera Cruz and the vicinity to remain in the same positions and not to advance or to bring on an encounter with the Mexican troops. During the alarm over the flurry at the water works at El Tejar yesterday detachments of marines and bluejackets were prepared for an immediate landing. Field guns were put into readiness for conveyance ashore, but at the last moment, when headquarters learned that there was no need for assistance from the fleet, all orders were cancelled.

One marine battalion order to hurry out to El Tejar made the march under a blazing sun. Another battalion of marines and a battalion of 4th Infantry were taken forward as quickly as the rickety narrow gauge railroad and the patched-up locomotives could take them. At the same time artillery and mounted detachments with machine gun platoons were held in readiness.

The threat to take El Tejar is regarded here as having been made by one of the junior Mexican officers and not by General Gustavo Maas himself. The outpost under Major Butler at El Tejar, which has been increased to 600 men, with field pieces and machine guns, since the alarm, is in a naturally strong position, easy to defend, but is isolated from the city.

Lieutenant William E. Seib, of the 4th Infantry, with a corporal and some of his men, proceeded to the break in the railroad where it was torn up by the Mexican troops, and was astonished to find a squad of the 18th Mexican Infantry Regiment on duty. The Mexicans were carrying hundreds of rounds of ammunition. They were friendly, and informed the Americans that a troop train had gone out along the other line, and it was in that direction that the battle, if any, must be in progress. The Americans thanked them and retraced their steps to El Tejar.

A Mexican corporal during the meeting said he did not know how far back General Maas was nor how strong his forces were, except that there was a party of forty men a few miles beyond the break in the line. Much smoke was seen along the railroad, and it was deduced that the Mexicans were engaged in burning the ties and destroying the line.

The only communication between Vera Cruz and Tampico is by means of the naval wireless instruments, and through these Rear Admiral Badger is keeping in close touch with the situation there. All was reported quiet in that port to-day.

The German liner Ypiranga is preparing to sail for New Orleans, but intends to stop at intermediate points along the coast to pick up German refugees. Officials of the line as well as the German Consulate disclaim any intention of an attempt to be made to land at Tampico the war munitions whose arrival here brought about the seizure of the Vera Cruz custom house.

Officials in Vera Cruz look forward to a lengthy period of inactivity while awaiting the result of the pending mediation.

[From The Tribune Bureau.] Washington, May 3.—The enemy which the American army faces at Vera Cruz numbers about 10,000 men, according to information sent to the War Department by General Funston, commanding at Vera Cruz. There are 4,000 Mexican soldiers at Soledad, twenty miles away, under the command of General Maas.

There are 5,000 more troops at Jalapa, about eighty miles from Vera Cruz, on the Inter-oceanic Railway. Fifteen hundred more are reported at Palmar, the precise whereabouts of which is not known here, but it is supposed to be somewhere near Vera Cruz. At Jalapa and Palmar the Mexican troops are throwing up intrenchments.

MEXICANS HONOR KILLED

[By The Central News of America.] Vera Cruz, May 3.—Thousands of inhabitants of Vera Cruz went to the cemeteries to-day to place flowers on the graves of the Mexicans who were killed by the American marines in the fighting that followed the landing of American forces on April 21.

The Mexicans timed their demonstration of sympathy and respect for their own dead to coincide with the departure of the Montana with the bodies of the Americans killed in the fighting on the day of occupation.

What Says Ben Franklin To-day?

PICTOGRAPH NO. 44.

MAY 4, 1914.



BEN FRANKLIN SAYS:

Name.....
Address.....
Date.....1914

Supplies on Sale at Tribune Office. By mail, 10c Extra

BEN FRANKLIN QUIZ DEPT.

MAIL ORDER BLANK.

The New York Tribune, New York City, N. Y.

Enclosed is \$..... for which send me the (Items marked below):

Name.....
Address.....

Send money in stamps, postal or express money order, or check

Enclosed is \$..... for which send me the (Items marked below):

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Address.....

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Get Your Free Pictographs And These \$7,150

The Quiz is rapidly nearing its close. To-day—with the free pictographs which The Tribune so generously offers—you can enter this splendid game with all confidence of winning one of those \$7,150 awards.

The Quiz is the most remarkable money-making opportunity ever presented you. A glance at the date schedule printed herewith will show you that promptness is most necessary for success.

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1. Solve 50 pictographs for 50 sayings of Benjamin Franklin.
2. Six solutions are allowed for each pictograph.
3. \$7,150 in awards is given free to the winners.
4. The winners are decided on the basis of the number of correct solutions submitted.
5. Solutions are not to be turned in